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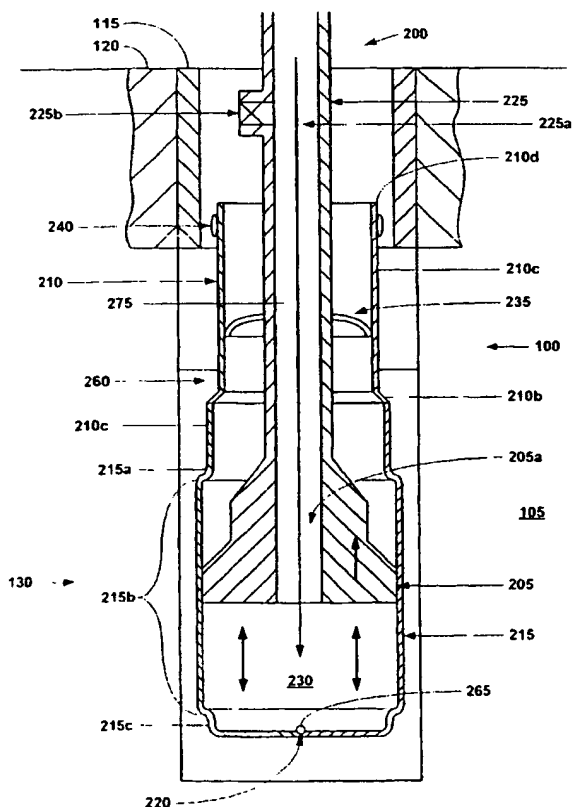
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(54) Title: **MONO-DIAMETER WELLBORE CASING**

(57) Abstract: A mono-diameter wellbore casing.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A          | US 2002/0033261 A1 (METCALFE) 21 March 2002 (21.03.02), summary.                   | 1-55                  |
| A          | US 6,085,838 A (VERCAEMER et al.) 11 July 2000 (11.07.02), figures 5-7.            | 1-55                  |

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

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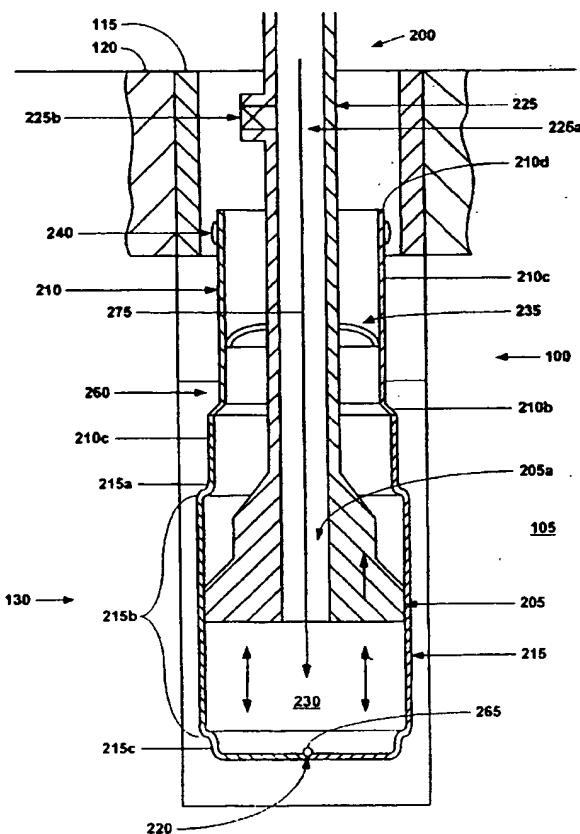
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MONO-DIAMETER WELLBORE CASING

(57) Abstract: A mono-diameter wellbore casing.



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**AMENDED CLAIMS**

**[Received by the International Bureau on 15 July 2004 ( 15.07.04 ):  
original claims 1 - 55 amended;  
new claims 56 - 78 added (2 pages)]**

**Claims**

1. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:
  - a support member including a first fluid passage;
  - an expansion cone coupled to the support member including a second fluid passage fluidly coupled to the first fluid passage;
  - an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the expansion cone; and
  - an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner;
  - wherein the expansion cone is adjustable to a plurality of stationary positions.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expandable shoe includes a valveable fluid passage for controlling the flow of fluidic materials out of the expandable shoe.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expandable shoe includes:
  - an expandable portion; and
  - a remaining portion coupled to the expandable portion;
  - wherein the outer circumference of the expandable portion is greater than the outer circumference of the remaining portion.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the expandable portion includes:
  - one or more inward folds.
5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the expandable portion includes:
  - one or more corrugations.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expandable shoe includes:
  - one or more inward folds.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the expandable shoe includes:
  - one or more corrugations.
8. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:

installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a first outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a second outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the expansion cone.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:  
lowering the adjustable expansion cone into the shoe; and  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to the first outside diameter.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:  
pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner further comprises:  
pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.

13. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:  
means for installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;

means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:  
means for adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a first outside diameter; and  
means for injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and  
means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:  
means for adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a second outside diameter;  
and  
means for injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the adjustable  
expansion cone.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:

means for lowering the adjustable expansion cone into the shoe; and  
means for adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to the first outside diameter.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:

means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner further comprises:

means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.

18. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:



a first wellbore casing comprising:  
an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and  
a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;  
wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and  
a second wellbore casing comprising:  
an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and  
a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;  
wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;  
and  
wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;  
wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:  
installing the second wellbore casing and an adjustable expansion cone within the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a first outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the second wellbore casing; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a second outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the adjustable expansion cone.

19. The wellbore casing of claim 18, wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone.

20. The wellbore casing of claim 18, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing further comprises:  
lowering the adjustable expansion cone into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing; and  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to the first outside diameter.
21. The wellbore casing of claim 18, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing further comprises:  
pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.
22. The wellbore casing of claim 18, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing further comprises:  
pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.
23. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:  
a support member including a first fluid passage;  
a first adjustable expansion cone coupled to the support member including a second fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;  
a second adjustable expansion cone coupled to the support member including a third fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;  
an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the first and second adjustable expansion cones; and  
an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner.
24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the expandable shoe includes a valveable fluid passage for controlling the flow of fluidic materials out of the expandable shoe.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the expandable shoe includes:  
an expandable portion; and  
a remaining portion coupled to the expandable portion;  
wherein the outer circumference of the expandable portion is greater than the outer  
circumference of the remaining portion.
26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the expandable portion includes:  
one or more inward folds.
27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the expandable portion includes:  
one or more corrugations.
28. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the expandable shoe includes:  
one or more inward folds.
29. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the expandable shoe includes:  
one or more corrugations.
30. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a  
preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:  
installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion cone, a lower adjustable  
expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to a reduced outside diameter;  
adjusting the upper adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the lower adjustable expansion  
cone.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower  
adjustable expansion cone is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper  
adjustable expansion cone.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.
33. The method of claim 30, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:
- lowering the lower adjustable expansion cone into the shoe; and
  - adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to the increased outside diameter.
34. The method of claim 30, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:
- pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and
  - pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.
35. The method of claim 30, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner further comprises:
- pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and
  - pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.
36. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion cone, a lower adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:
  - means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter; and
  - means for injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:

means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to a reduced outside diameter;  
means for adjusting the upper adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter; and  
means for injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the lower adjustable expansion cone.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.

38. The system of claim 36, wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.

39. The system of claim 36, wherein the means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:  
means for lowering the lower adjustable expansion cone into the shoe; and  
means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to the increased outside diameter.

40. The system of claim 36, wherein the means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe further comprises:  
means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.

41. The system of claim 36, wherein the means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner further comprises:  
means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.

42. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:

a first wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a second wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;

and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:

installing the second wellbore casing, an upper adjustable expansion cone, a lower adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;

radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing shoe by a process comprising:

adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter; and

injecting a fluidic material into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing; and

radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:

adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to a reduced outside diameter;

adjusting the upper adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter; and

injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the lower adjustable expansion cone.

43. The wellbore casing of claim 42, wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.
44. The wellbore casing of claim 42, wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.
45. The wellbore casing of claim 42, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing further comprises:  
lowering the lower adjustable expansion cone into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing; and  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to the increased outside diameter.
46. The wellbore casing of claim 42, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing further comprises:  
pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.
47. The wellbore casing of claim 42, wherein radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing further comprises:  
pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material.
48. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:  
a support member including a first fluid passage;  
an expansion cone coupled to the support member including a second fluid passage fluidly coupled to the first fluid passage;  
an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the expansion cone; and

an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner comprising:  
a valveable fluid passage for controlling the flow of fluidic materials out of the expandable shoe;  
an expandable portion comprising one or more inward folds; and  
a remaining portion coupled to the expandable portion;  
wherein the outer circumference of the expandable portion is greater than the outer circumference of the remaining portion;  
wherein the expansion cone is adjustable to a plurality of stationary positions.

49. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:  
installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:  
lowering the adjustable expansion cone into the shoe;  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a first outside diameter;  
pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a second outside diameter;  
pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material;  
wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone.

50. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:  
means for installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;  
means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:  
means for lowering the adjustable expansion cone into the shoe;



means for adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a first outside diameter;  
means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material; and  
means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:  
means for adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a second outside diameter;  
means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material;  
wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone.

51. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:

a first wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a second wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;  
and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:

installing the second wellbore casing and an adjustable expansion cone in the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
lowering the adjustable expansion cone into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a first outside diameter;  
pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion cone to a second outside diameter;  
pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material;  
wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion cone.

52. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:  
a support member including a first fluid passage;  
a first adjustable expansion cone coupled to the support member including a second fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;  
a second adjustable expansion cone coupled to the support member including a third fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;  
an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the first and second adjustable expansion cones; and  
an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner comprising:  
a valveable fluid passage for controlling the flow of fluidic materials out of the expandable shoe;  
an expandable portion comprising one or more inwards folds; and

a remaining portion coupled to the expandable portion;  
wherein the outer circumference of the expandable portion is greater than the outer circumference of the remaining portion.

53. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion cone, a lower adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:
  - lowering the lower adjustable expansion cone into the shoe;
  - adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter;
  - pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and
  - pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material; and
  - radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:
  - adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to a reduced outside diameter;
  - adjusting the upper adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter;
  - pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and
  - pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material;
- wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone; and
- wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.

54. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion cone, a lower adjustable expansion cone, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:

means for lowering the lower adjustable expansion cone into the shoe;  
means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter;  
means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material; and  
means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:  
means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to a reduced outside diameter;  
means for adjusting the upper adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter;  
means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and  
means for pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material;  
wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone; and  
wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.

55. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:

a first wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a second wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;

and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:

installing the second wellbore casing, an upper adjustable expansion cone, and a lower adjustable expansion cone in the borehole;

radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:

lowering the lower adjustable expansion cone into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;

adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter;

pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and

pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material; and

radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:

adjusting the lower adjustable expansion cone to a reduced outside diameter;

adjusting the upper adjustable expansion cone to an increased outside diameter;

pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the lower adjustable expansion cone using a fluidic material; and

pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion cone using the fluidic material;

wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone; and

wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion cone is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion cone.

56. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:
- a support member defining a first fluid passage;
  - an expansion device coupled to the support member defining a second fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;
  - an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the expansion device; and
  - an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner;
- wherein the expansion device is adjustable to a plurality of stationary positions.
57. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:
    - adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter; and
    - injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and
  - radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:
    - adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter; and
    - injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the adjustable expansion device.
58. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:
    - means for adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter; and
    - means for injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:
    - means for adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter; and
    - means for injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the adjustable expansion device.

59. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:

a first wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and  
a second wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;  
and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:

installing the second wellbore casing and an adjustable expansion device within the borehole;

radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:

adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter;  
and

injecting a fluidic material into the second wellbore casing; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:

adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter; and

injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the adjustable expansion device.

60. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:
- a support member including a first fluid passage;
  - a first adjustable expansion device coupled to the support member including a second fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;
  - a second adjustable expansion device coupled to the support member including a third fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;
  - an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the first and second adjustable expansion devices; and
  - an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner.
61. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion device, a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:
    - adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and
    - injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and
  - radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:
    - adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;
    - adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and
    - injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the lower adjustable expansion device.
62. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion device, a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:
    - means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and



means for injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and  
means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:  
means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced  
outside diameter;  
means for adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased  
outside diameter; and  
means for injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the lower  
adjustable expansion device.

63. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation,  
comprising:

a first wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first  
wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less  
than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a second wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to  
the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the  
second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less  
than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;  
and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal  
to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the  
process of:

installing the second wellbore casing, an upper adjustable expansion device,  
a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;

radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second  
wellbore casing shoe by a process comprising:

adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;  
adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the borehole below the lower adjustable expansion device.

64. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:

a support member including a first fluid passage;  
an expansion device coupled to the support member including a second fluid passage fluidly coupled to the first fluid passage;  
an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the expansion device; and  
an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner comprising:  
a valveable fluid passage for controlling the flow of fluidic materials out of the expandable shoe;  
an expandable portion comprising one or more inward folds; and  
a remaining portion coupled to the expandable portion;  
wherein the outer circumference of the expandable portion is greater than the outer circumference of the remaining portion;  
wherein the expansion device is adjustable to a plurality of stationary positions.

65. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:

installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:  
lowering the adjustable expansion device into the shoe;  
adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter;

pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter;  
pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material;  
wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion device is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion device.

66. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:
  - means for lowering the adjustable expansion device into the shoe;
  - means for adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter;
  - means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and
  - means for pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material; and
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:
  - means for adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter;
  - means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and
  - means for pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material;
- wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion device is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion device.

67. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:

a first wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a second wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing; and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:

installing the second wellbore casing and an adjustable expansion device in the borehole;

radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:

lowering the adjustable expansion device into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;

adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter;

pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and

pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material; and

radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:

adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter;

pressurizing a region within the shoe below the adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material;  
wherein the first outside diameter of the adjustable expansion device is greater than the second outside diameter of the adjustable expansion device.

68. An apparatus for forming a wellbore casing in a borehole located in a subterranean formation including a preexisting wellbore casing, comprising:

- a support member including a first fluid passage;
  - a first adjustable expansion device coupled to the support member including a second fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;
  - a second adjustable expansion device coupled to the support member including a third fluid passage fluidically coupled to the first fluid passage;
  - an expandable tubular liner movably coupled to the first and second adjustable expansion devices; and
  - an expandable shoe coupled to the expandable tubular liner comprising:
    - a valveable fluid passage for controlling the flow of fluidic materials out of the expandable shoe;
    - an expandable portion comprising one or more inwards folds; and
    - a remaining portion coupled to the expandable portion;
- wherein the outer circumference of the expandable portion is greater than the outer circumference of the remaining portion.

69. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:

- installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion device, a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
- radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:
  - lowering the lower adjustable expansion device into the shoe;
  - adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter;
  - pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and

pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;  
adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter;  
pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and  
pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material;  
wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion device is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion device; and  
wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion device is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion device.

70. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion device, a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:
  - means for lowering the lower adjustable expansion device into the shoe;
  - means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter;
  - means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and
  - means for pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material; and
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:
  - means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;
  - means for adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter;

means for pressurizing a region within the shoe below the lower adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and

means for pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material;

wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion device is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion device; and

wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion device is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion device.

71. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:

a first wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a second wellbore casing comprising:

an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and

a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;

and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:

installing the second wellbore casing, an upper adjustable expansion device, and a lower adjustable expansion device in the borehole;

radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:

lowering the lower adjustable expansion device into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;

adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter;

pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the lower adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and

pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material; and

radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:

adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;

adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter;

pressurizing a region within the lower portion of the second wellbore casing below the lower adjustable expansion device using a fluidic material; and

pressurizing an annular region above the upper adjustable expansion device using the fluidic material;

wherein the increased outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion device is greater than the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion device; and

wherein the reduced outside diameter of the lower adjustable expansion device is less than or equal to the increased outside diameter of the upper adjustable expansion device.

72. An apparatus for radially expanding and plastically deforming a tubular member, comprising:

means for injecting fluidic materials into the tubular member to radially expand and plastically deform the tubular member; and

means for radially expanding and plastically deforming the tubular member by displacing an expansion device within the tubular member.

73. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:

installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;

radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:

adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter; and



injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter; and  
displacing the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular liner.

74. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:
    - means for adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter; and
    - means for injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:
    - means for adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter; and
    - means for displacing the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular liner.

75. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:
- a first wellbore casing comprising:
    - an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and
    - a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;
  - wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and
  - a second wellbore casing comprising:
    - an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and
    - a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing;  
and  
wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;  
wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:  
installing the second wellbore casing and an adjustable expansion device within the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a first outside diameter;  
and  
injecting a fluidic material into the second wellbore casing; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
adjusting the adjustable expansion device to a second outside diameter; and  
displacing the adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular liner.

76. A method of forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:  
installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion device, a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;  
radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the shoe; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;  
adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and  
displacing the upper adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular liner.

77. A system for forming a wellbore casing in a subterranean formation having a preexisting wellbore casing positioned in a borehole, comprising:
- means for installing a tubular liner, an upper adjustable expansion device, a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole;
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the shoe comprising:
    - means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and
    - means for injecting a fluid material into the shoe; and
  - means for radially expanding at least a portion of the tubular liner comprising:
    - means for adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;
    - means for adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and
    - means for displacing the upper adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular liner.
78. A wellbore casing positioned in a borehole within a subterranean formation, comprising:
- a first wellbore casing comprising:
    - an upper portion of the first wellbore casing; and
    - a lower portion of the first wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the first wellbore casing;
  - wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and
  - a second wellbore casing comprising:
    - an upper portion of the second wellbore casing that overlaps with and is coupled to the lower portion of the first wellbore casing; and
    - a lower portion of the second wellbore casing coupled to the upper portion of the second wellbore casing;
  - wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing is less than the inside diameter of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing; and

wherein the inside diameter of the upper portion of the first wellbore casing is equal to the inside diameter of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing; wherein the second wellbore casing is coupled to the first wellbore casing by the process of:

installing the second wellbore casing, an upper adjustable expansion device, a lower adjustable expansion device, and a shoe in the borehole; radially expanding at least a portion of the lower portion of the second wellbore casing shoe by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and  
injecting a fluidic material into the lower portion of the second wellbore casing; and  
radially expanding at least a portion of the upper portion of the second wellbore casing by a process comprising:  
adjusting the lower adjustable expansion device to a reduced outside diameter;  
adjusting the upper adjustable expansion device to an increased outside diameter; and  
displacing the upper adjustable expansion device relative to the tubular liner;

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/00609

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : E21B 43/10  
 US CL : 166/380, 207

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 166/380, 207, 212, 216, 217

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A          | US 2002/0033261 A1 (METCALFE) 21 March 2002 (21.03.02), summary:                   | 1-55                  |
| A          | US 6,085,838 A (VERCAEMER et al.) 11 July 2000 (11.07.02), figures 5-7.            | 1-55                  |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

| Special categories of cited documents:  |  |
|---|--|
| * "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  | "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  |
| "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date   | "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone   |
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